

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for making an international payment from a source account in a first currency in a first country to a local currency account in a second currency in another, second country, wherein the second currency is different from the first currency, comprising:

receiving from a user, via a web-based interface, a transaction request to transfer funds from the source account to the local currency account;

verifying availability of sufficient funds in the source account;

creating a payment instruction and a payment request that are associated with a common transaction request to transfer funds from the source account to the local currency account;

communicating the payment instruction directly to the local currency account in the second country;

wherein the payment instruction designates a beneficiary account in the second country for the local currency account to transfer currency to; and

separately communicating the a payment request to a funds source associated with the source account; wherein:

in accordance with the payment request, funds are transferred from the source account funds source to a treasury account if necessary to maintain a balance at the treasury account which is sufficient to cover an amount of the payment request, and

funds at the treasury account are used to provide at least one of: (a) a payment to, and (b) a credit entry on behalf of, the local currency account in a currency of the second country.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the payment to the local currency account is provided by exchanging the funds at the treasury account for the currency of the second country, and transferring the exchanged funds to the local currency account.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the credit entry is provided by exchanging the funds at the treasury account for the currency of the second country, and making a credit entry for the exchanged funds in a general ledger on behalf of the local currency account.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the communicating of the payment instruction to the local currency account is independent of the communicating of the payment request to the funds source.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the funds source draws from the source account.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the payment instruction identifies at least one of: a currency type of the first country, the source account, and a type of financial product associated with the transaction request.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

validating transaction data associated with the payment instruction prior to communicating the payment instruction to the local currency account.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining an exchange rate to offer to a the user that creates the transaction request for approval thereby prior to communicating the payment instruction to the local currency account;

wherein at least one of the providing of the payment to, and credit entry on behalf of the local currency account, is responsive to the exchange rate.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein:

~~the user is enabled to create the transaction request using a computer system; and~~
the exchange rate is determined using data that is stored locally to the computer system.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein:

~~the user is enabled to create the transaction request using a computer system; and~~

the exchange rate is dynamically determined through an external foreign exchange information service.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, where the verifying step comprises:

querying the funds source to determine if there are sufficient funds ~~thereat~~ to fund the payment request.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

debiting the source account according to the amount of the payment request.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the currency of the local currency account is transferred directly ~~therefrom~~ to the beneficiary account without passing through an intermediary financial institution.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the currency of the local currency account is transferred ~~therefrom~~ to the beneficiary account via at least one intermediary financial institution in the second country.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the local currency account comprises a Nostro account.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the payment is provided to the local currency account in lieu of providing the credit entry on behalf of the local currency account according to the amount of the payment request.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the payment is provided to the local currency account in lieu of providing the credit entry on behalf of the local currency account according to a risk profile associated with the payment request.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the funds from the funds source are transferred to the treasury account via a clearing account.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the payment instruction is communicated to the local currency account in the second country via a financial interchange network.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

enabling web-based tracking of the transaction request by a user.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A system for making an international payment from a source account in a first currency in a first country to a local currency account in a second currency in another, second country, wherein the second currency is different from the first currency, comprising:

means for creating a payment instruction ~~and a payment request, that are~~ associated with a ~~common~~ transaction request initiated by an international payments customer;

means for determining the appropriate transfer route for the transaction;

means for directly communicating the payment instruction to the local currency account in the second country;

wherein the payment instruction designates a beneficiary account in the second country for the local currency account to transfer currency to; and

means for separately communicating ~~the~~ a payment request to a funds source associated with the source account; wherein

in accordance with the payment request, funds are transferred from the funds source to a treasury account if necessary to maintain a balance at the treasury account which is sufficient to cover an amount of the payment request, and funds at the treasury account are used to provide at least one of: (a) a payment to, and (b) a credit entry on behalf of, the local currency account in a currency of the second country.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Amended) A method for providing a customized international payment transaction user interface, comprising:

during an initialization access session of an international payment transaction system by a user, receiving, via a computerized user interface, information from a user for identifying the user and for identifying at least one account from which funds may be drawn when an international payment transaction is executed;

creating a record having the information for identifying the user and for identifying the at least one account; and

assigning an identifier to the record; and

retrieving the record in order to customize the computerized user interface to enable the user to make an international payment transaction upon a subsequent access of the system by the user.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein:

the customized computerized user interface enables the user to make an international payment transaction without having to re-enter the information for identifying the at least one account.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

communicating with an institution at which the account is held to verify the at least one account.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

communicating with a credit-reporting bureau to obtain an indication of a credit
worthiness of the user.